



LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

27 FEBRUARY 1976

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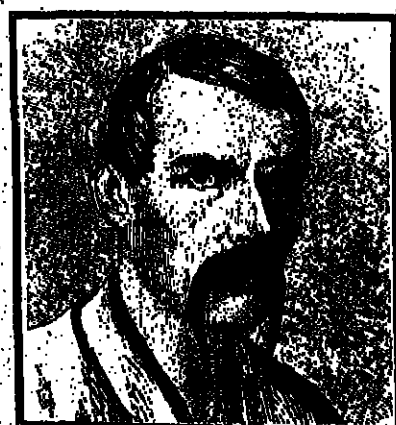
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TLS

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

FRIDAY • 5 MARCH 1976 • No 3,860 • 18p

Lionel Trilling: Why we read Jane Austen

Mendès France and his message

The art and craft of obituaries

Censorship in public libraries

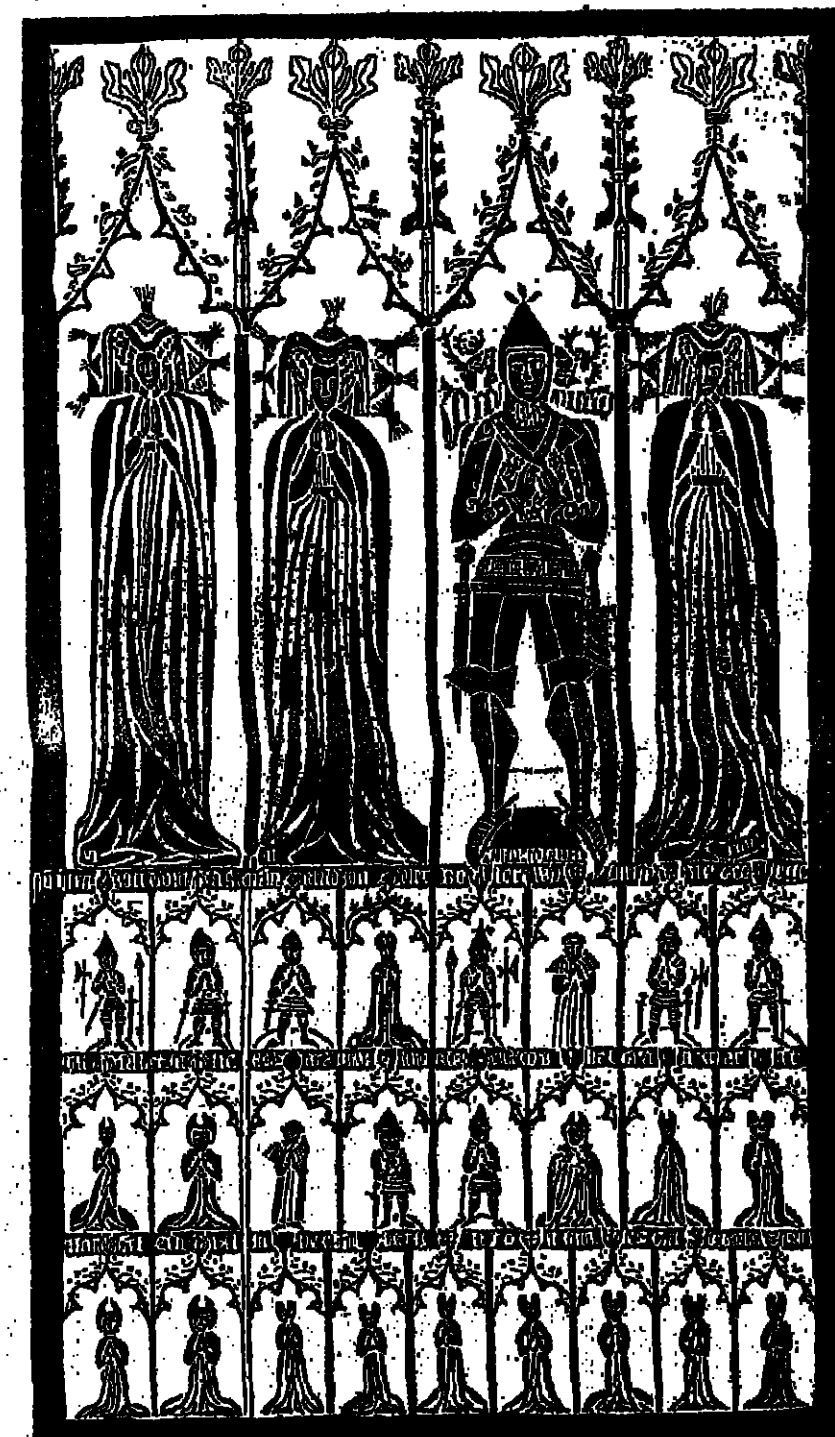
The conscience of Casals

A. J. P. Taylor: The Dominions, America and Appeasement

Deviance in classrooms

'Shakespeare's Pagan World', Richard Aldington, Cecil Chesterton

Fiction: René Clair by Richard Mayne



St. Ralph, his three wives and his twenty-five children; an incised stone slab (1468) from Bolton-by-Bowland in Yorkshire, from Incised Effigial Slabs by F. A. Greenhill (Volume 1: 431pp and 50 line-drawings; Volume 2: 224pp and 340 plates. Faber and Faber, £35 the set). The work, which includes examples from sixteen countries and is thought to be the first study of its subject (as distinct from brasses or sculptured effigies) in any language, will be reviewed in a forthcoming issue of the TLS.

Bibliography: Wilfrid Blunt on botanical books

But actually, of course, if Mr. ... is right, I don't know any-
thing at all about Andun and his
and his two kings, or at least
I know something that merely
approximates the cultural fact—
it was in this pleasant but
illibly imprecise way I sym-
patized with my students who
represented in Jane Austen
novels. Humanism brushes aside
imprecision, and doubtless
old brush aside gross error
were proved; humanism takes
line that we are to be confi-
dent of our intuitive understanding.

This significance consists in the paradox that their motion is to be seen as fixed; its evanescence has been representation, become transience, and this is the highest truth of the matter. The significance of course is what the turn is explicitly said to be: the turning is the processes of life to a story as to a process, a coherent and as it were, a "fictitious" event. "The past is immortalized"; that is to say, it is dead. It says the protagonist of the story is "dead" (personified), and death is the root condition of all abiding significance. And Mann suggests that this death, which brings everlastingness, and abiding significance, may be a decisive element in the process of the "father's" death. Mann's great story, who actually is a historian, wants his beloved little daughter to be always as she is, as she now knows him, and love has to make the changes that the process of life will bring. That is why, in the moment of distressing perception, he is able to say that in his life she has been the only thing

It might Mr. Goertz says, "We beyond our powers to take seriously the selfhood, being kept from doing so" by our own notions of "the selfhood of the individual." Perhaps, he says, it can have credibility for us only insofar as we have seen, as he has, a young man whose wife—a woman he had known from childhood and who had been the center of his life—has suddenly and inexplicably died, greeting and talking with a sad smile and formal apologies for his wife's absence and crying out for techniques to flatten out and let himself put it, the hills and valleys of his emotion into an even level, and saying, "In what you have to do," he says, "Mrs.," he smooths in and out.

The Javanese sense of remoteness is indeed at a far distance from our own, yet surely it is considerably more accessible to us than Mr. Goertz says it is. Doubtless it is, and we are to see a

It has become part of the jargon of our Western selfhood and society to speak of the "role" that we play, but this locution manifests in only a metaphorical intention compared with the literal force that the idea of a dramatic existence has for Balinese. Sometimes, Mr Geertz personifies himself as a Balinese person because he appears that there is a core of personality

1 "From the Native's Point View; On the Nature of Anthropological Understanding", *Bulletin of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Volume XXVIII, No. 1.

2 The phrase is used by Geertz with ironic force to express his uneasiness over a transcendence which is implicit

Not infrequently, however, Dr. Simmons himself betrays the political conservatism that so often mars, as well as makes academic staidness of Shakespeare. While seeking to set aside the more culpable naïvetés of E. M. W. Tillyard and Irving Ribner (for comparatively few vigilant Elizabethans may be supposed to have shared their uncritical regard for "degrees"), he asks us to recognize the Caesar that in a fallen

James Reeves has strong claims to be considered the progenitor of the most recent view of Georgian poetry. His discerning introduction to the Penguin anthology *Georgian Poetry* is dated 1966—that is, some 20 years before the Georgian chapters in C. K. Stead's excellent *The New Poetic* and Robert H. Ross's more commendable but no more convincing *The Georgian Revolt*. We are now to believe that "Georgian" is no longer a fact, an epithet of disparagement: there were no Georgians who really did, as they themselves thought, write realistic poetry in a non-archaic language and constituted a rebellion against their Victorian hangover at the end of the first decade of this century.

hope of the evidence to support the view of the Georgians I have crudely put. It can now take account, for instance, of Bertrand Russell's autobiography and Rupert Brooke's letters. But apart from showing convincingly how the ideas of G. E. Moore and Russell, lying behind the first wave of Georgian verse, I do not think anything fundamental is added to the accounts sketched so economically by Mr. Reeves and Mr. Stead. But the book will certainly be useful as an introduction or as a short-cut for those who do not wish to take the leisurely ramble provided by Professor Ross. Moreover, about two-thirds of the way through, after rehearsing much of the already known, Myron Simon takes in-

In the Georgian movement (movements) there are several lessons for poets today and Myron Simon, in writing about the past, has undoubtedly have had the present in mind. For example, the original Georgian concept of the normal metre works for poetry, side by side with the necessity for speech diction, is currently a matter of debate among poets. But one must be careful not to make generalizations on a wholesale affair. Like Arabians and generalizations, especially retrospective ones, are highly suspect: the fact is, as with any movement, some Georgians (W. I. Davies, for instance) are rather good and many more are rather bad.

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James Reeves has strong claims to be considered the progenitor of the most recent view of Georgian poetry. The discerning introduction to his Penguin anthology *Georgian Poetry* in 1960—that is, some 25 years before the Georgian chapter in *Poetic* and Robert R. Ross's more compendious but no more convincing *Writing The Georgian Revival*—states that the "discovery" of the *mot ipso facto* an entire epoch of literary misapprehension and of Georgian poets who really did, as they did themselves thought, write realistic verse, and who were, in fact, not consulted a rebellion against the Victorian hangover at the end of the first decade of this century;

and there were the later false Georgians who under the leadership of J. C. Squire got the movement a bad name with tepid, country-week-end verse.

The present paperback monograph, in the University of California Press's Occasional Papers series, is mainly an assembly and driving home of the evidence to support the view of the Georgians I have advocated. It can now take account, for instance, of Bertrand Russell's autobiography and Rupert Brooke's letters, but apart from showing convincingly how the ideas of G. E. Moore and Russell lay behind the first wave of Georgianism, it does not think anything fundamental is added to the accounts sketched so economically by Mr. Reeves and Mr. Stread. But the book will certainly be useful as an introduction or as a shorthand for those who do not wish to take the surest route provided by Professor Ross. Moreover, about two-thirds of the way through, after rehearsing much of the already known, Myron Simon takes in-

interestingly off on a tack of his own in his discussion of specific matters such as Georgian technique, the situation of Georgian technique in the tradition from Lascelles Abercrombie's *The Theory of Poetry* are well chosen and his analysis of Brooke's "Fragment" is so good one could not help wishing he had written a slightly different work to allow more of that sort of thing.

In the Georgian movement (or movements) there are several elements for poets today and Myron Shmon, in writing about the past must undoubtedly have had them present in mind. For example, the original Georgian concept of heroic epics takes weeks for poets; it is aided by side wits, the poet has a speech dictation, is currently a matter of debate among poets. But one must be careful not to make rehabilitation a wholesale affair, listerize labels and generalizations, especially strategic ones, put a high suspicion on the fact that the Georgian movement, some Georgians (W. I. Davies, for instance) are, rather good and many more are, rather bad.

Brotherly hate

By Frances Donaldson

BROCARD SEWELL:
Cecil Chesterton
107pp. St. Albans Press. £3.75.

Cecil Chesterton, born in 1879 and a brother of G. K. Chesterton, was a journalist and writer on politics and history. He worked on *The New Age* with A. R. Orage and in 1911 became assistant editor to Hilaire Belloc on *The New Witness*. After about a year he took the paper over from Belloc, who continued to write for it, and renaming it *The New Witness*, edited it until he left for the front in 1915, when G. K. Chesterton took his place. He wrote a history of the United States and collaborated with Belloc in a criticism of Parliament called *The Parity System*. Born a Unitarian, he entered the Church of England as an Anglo-Catholic when a young man, and then in 1912 became Roman Catholic.

He had a pungent prose style and, like his brother, wrote as easily as many people speak. He was not highly talented and he would hardly emerge out of the shadow of his brother, but he was a good writer and he pursued the self-appointed task of castigating his fellow men, and for the influence he had on his brother and on Belloc.

Cecil Chesterton saw evil and corruption all round him. So did Belloc. In the *New Witness* they developed the theme that government in England was carried on by agreement and arrangement between the two Front Benches, whose members were interrelated and represented the same interests. They were not in opposition to each other, but in league against Parliament and the people. This theory might have been convincing if its authors had not been so convinced of the result of the half-conscious working of the class system—the Establishment—but unfortunately wherever they looked they saw deliberate and calculated corruption, and this they assumed it took to be correct.

In a different place Cecil Chesterton wrote that the Law of Liberty was just whatever a particular old gentleman who, generally after years of serving the politicians in Parliament, has been jobbed into a salaried post at many thousands a year, chooses to say it is, and this is hardly an exaggeration of his normal style of invective.

In *The New Witness* Belloc and Chesterton hunted and harassed everyone they disliked or disagreed with. Both were anti-Jewish. Belloc liked to pretend that his antipathy to Jews was confined to those who were international financiers and it distressed him when Chesterton gave the game away by attacking the

Jews as such. His disclaimers carried little weight, however, because of the insolence and relish with which he conducted his own campaigns. There is no doubt that *The New Witness* sometimes exposed genuine scandals. However, Leonard Woolf, who was at school with Chesterton, says that even as a boy "he had a streak of that kind of fanatical intolerance which seems to be fertilized, not by profound convictions, but by personal animosities," while Belloc's zeal, according to his own admission, caused many of his friends to turn from him.

In 1916 Chesterton married Miss Ada Jones, better known as R. K. Protheroe, a journalist who had been in close association with him on *The New Witness*. The later life Mrs Chesterton did good work in establishing the Cecil Houses for homeless women in London, but she, too, seems to have been poisonously influenced. In a book called *The Parity System* she weaved a fantasy of spiteful invective about Mrs G. K. Chesterton, to the sorrow and embarrassment of their friends; and there is good reason to believe she was responsible for some of the worst excesses of *The New Witness*.

All this culminated in the Marconi scandal. Belloc and Chesterton (and in addition a journalist named Wilfrid Knappes Lawson on *The Outlook*) accused the Postmaster General, Herbert Samuel, of corruptly giving a contract to the managing director of the Marconi Company, Godfrey Isaacs, the brother of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lloyd George, had bought shares in the American Marconi Company, which could be said to have benefited in an indirect way from the contract between the British Government and the English Marconi Company, and even worse had prevaricated in a statement about this to the House of Commons. Vulnerable on that account, ministers allowed *The New Witness* to accuse them week after week of corruption in the placing of the contract without taking action to stop it.

Belloc and Chesterton, growing more and more reckless, both alleged they had evidence to support their charges. In the long run they had no case for this: Belloc before the Parliamentary Select Committee where, although he could produce no evidence of any sort, he scored verbally in examination by a Liberal MP, but Chesterton under cross-examination by Sir Edward Carson. Both men, as also Lawson, seemed genuinely to believe the theses that if the Postmaster General, who is a Jew, gives to the brother of the Attorney General, both Jews, a contract for the establishment of an imperial chain of wireless stations, that in itself is evidence of corruption. Under the pressure of Carson's

examination Chesterton gradually withdrew all charges, saying that if ministers said on oath that they had not dealt corruptly he would not accuse them of lying.

We have come to believe that progress is almost always downhill. Yet no one in the atmosphere of today could ruthlessly and taking a stand on superior personal morals, seek out evil in their fellows as Belloc and the Chestertons did. (In 1918, on the occasion of Cecil's death, G. K. Chesterton wrote an outrageous open letter to Rufus Isaacs in *The New Witness* which, with a snide pretension to charity, repeated the charges his brother had been forced to withdraw.)

There may still be room for a book about these things, because, although Cecil Chesterton has no other claim on our attention, his brother and Belloc have. Brocard Sewell has not entirely succeeded in writing it. He has had to rely mostly on published material. For those interested he has assembled the facts of Chesterton's career in narrative form and in a reasonably impartial way, but he has not increased our understanding of the man or his circle.

Letters from an anti-hero

By J. S. Atherton

MIRIAM I. BENKOVITZ:
A Passionate Prodigality
Letters to Alan Bird from Richard Aldington
361pp. New York Public Library. \$15.

Reading this collection of 147 letters from Richard Aldington, with only one extract from a letter by Alan Bird in the notes, is like listening to someone having a good long gossip on the phone. Fortunately the letters are carefully annotated, and this oasesdropper found himself being entertained.

The letters begin in 1949 when Bird, then a student at Cambridge, wrote early in the year admiring Aldington's translation of De Nerval. And, again, about November, enclosing a copy of his own poem "Speed" which had gained the chancery's medal. The replies were kindly and spiced with a few barbed remarks on contemporary writers. A year later, when Bird had graduated student at Oxford, he wrote what seems to have been a long letter to Aldington's book on D. H. Lawrence, *A Portrait of a Genius*. But in his reply Aldington explains, or glosses over various points which had troubled Bird (cruelty to the dog "Biddle" being one of them) and then asks for Bird's help in collecting information about life in the



AN ATTACK OF CUBO-VORTICITIS
Some Hopes of Recovery



THE TRUTH ABOUT THE RUSSIAN RALLY
The Wrong Turning

These cartoons of the dancers Massine and Karavina by Edmund D. appear in Nesta Macdonald's account of the Diaghilev ballet touring the eyes of contemporary reviewers: Diaghilev Observed (40pp. Dims Books. £10.50 until April 30, thereafter £12.50).

Oxford of 1890 to 1920. The next letter, ten days later, thanks Bird for his "generous offer" of help. From then on letters were exchanged regularly until Aldington's death.

Aldington was writing his debunking book, *Lawrence of Arabia*, and wanted information about T. E. Lawrence who had lived in Oxford from the age of eight, and attended school and university there. Bird, working hard on Aldington's problems, was rewarded with uninhibitedly gossipy letters commenting on whatever was engaging Aldington's attention. The personality that emerges from *A Passionate Prodigality* is attractive even if—as he says himself occasionally—cantankerous.

He writes about whatever comes into his head, whirling his prejudices like some medieval warrior swinging a skull-cracker. Some examples seem dumfounded, and charity suggests that I begin at home. Reviewers come off badly: they "don't read books—they report the gossip of the town and praise their friends... It is better to ignore their ignorant comments. The TLS is the worst... Its most offensive freaks in London." And, as he says that reviewers all have the nasty habit of quoting phrases out of context, perhaps I am justified in adding that he describes Churchill both as "a real hero, but" and as "Yanks-Poodle". Eisenhower is pronounced in France "Is-no-where". Wyndham Lewis "could never resist lampooning anyone who gave him money," but "a few of his portraits were

absolutely first class—and damn experts!" There is indeed "passionate prodigality" in his loves and hates that justify the title; and Aldington's outbursts made endearing by his praise of the "Divine muck".

It is to be hoped that politics of these letters will revive some of Aldington's other works, which are out of print and almost forgotten. I notice the latest edition of the works of Nerval (Paris, 1966) lists for sale one Czech and two German translations, but not the English one. Aldington that first attracted attention.

Miriam Benkovitz's editing is a work of devotion. She plans, in notes after each letter, a biographical index at the end of everything that needs explanation. Perhaps more than everything, but where is one to draw the line? I detected only one error: the Aldington mentions by *St. John's* Dampier is, as he says, *St. John's* *History of Science* (Cambridge, 1929). Aldington's custom of writing book titles with neither underlines nor the old-fashioned quotation marks has led Dr Benkovitz to provide a different title. Regarding Aldington's way of writing, it is the only fault I have with the book, but it is a fault in type with the printers, who in this every other respect have followed copy with scrupulous care. The book, the production, which is a credit to the office of the New York Public Library.

FICTION

Twists of fortune

By Richard Mayne

RENE CLAIR:
Jeux du hasard
252pp. Paris: Gallimard. 39fr.

René Clair is seventy-eight this year; and my first reaction on opening his collection of short stories was to flinch at the prospect of aged spriteliness—a literary counterpart of the late Maurice Chevalier in his final films, boulevardier to the last. It was fifty-three years ago, after all, that Clair made his first feature, the haunting and resonant (though silent) *Paris qui dort*. His British, American, and post-war movies ranged more widely: but if anyone mentions René Clair's Paris the picture invoked is that of the 1920s and 1930s, in films like *Quintette*, *Juliet*, *A nous la liberté*, *Le million*, and above all *Sous les toits de Paris*.

A recent film about Edith Piaf did its best to reconstruct that ambience—grey, leaded roofs, old-fashioned cement windows, cobbled streets and shabby, peeling walls. The attempt was faithful, and parts of Paris still look that way. Yet the pastiche simply emphasized how distant that epoch now seems. Accordion music and the zinc counter, a megalomaniacal drooping from a wet lip—it all seems too Gabbri to be true any more. Or too René Clair.

The surprise, as no one by now will be surprised to learn, is how sharp and lively these tales are. They are no one could call them avant-garde—unless a taste for the fantastic and the occult is a mark of modernity. Most of them are too enjoyable to be smart. But if they seem to sound respectable, a Gallie equivalent of Somerset Maugham's neat anecdotes, they hold more conviction and are more attractively felt and written. With Maugham, there was often a sense of cheap shrewdness, a willingness to let "cynicism" expressed in prose that lacked bite. With Clair, the conventions may be those of the farce, the thriller, and the *fête foraine*; but the author's warmth of feeling, ear for dialogue, and real interest in his characters make *Jeux du hasard*

seem a world away from Archibald at all.

The first story is typical. It begins in a *bar-tabac*. Alfred, a fairground urdine, is telling his tale. He licks two eggs. "La vois, les deux sont repoussés." So far, this is the world of Raymond Queneau's *Pierrot man uni*. But Alfred's story is full of twists. He becomes a faith-healer working for an illusionist. Coincidences multiply: perhaps faith does heal. The illusionist has illusions; but not all of them last. Alfred remains sceptical—agnostic: people, he says, are afraid of the dark.

Another story, "Mémoires d'un innocent", is in a similar vein. It might be a response to Sacha Guitry's *Roman d'un tricheur*. The "innocent" is naive, not quite innocent: choice fascinates him. Take this road, and disaster awaits you; take the other, and a fortune falls from the skies. But how to choose? Like others in perplexing situations, he hears voices to help him choose. One method equals another in a world of chance. Naturally enough, a casino appears in the story, but life too is a lottery, with a *volte-face* at every turn. As Clair handles them, these surprises really shock: not for nothing did he script nearly all his own films. Here, the nearest English equivalent is probably the early Evelyn Waugh, of *Vile Bodies* and *Scenes*. In contrast, each surprise seems inevitable. The narrator's cool stare remains, seemingly, indifferent. But inside, what misery and gloom.

Faith, fate, surprises: the ingredients are those of the theatre, to which many of these tales hark. Clair, however, appealing especially to a film-maker, is that of deception and lies. The most traditional story here, with a touch of Maupassant in its setting and its plot, is "Stok"—a mere anecdote about a young blood in a garrison town who fights a duel with an officer, and is killed, to defend the name of a sister, who does not exist. The young blood himself is a fraud, a more bank clerk. He takes honour so seriously that he ennobles deceit.

More amusing is the deception of "Sir Christopher". Lusting for an opera singer, he thinks to have won her; but the Parisian band who arranged their tryst has substituted

someone else. Sir Christopher falls in love, proposes marriage; the singer dies before receiving the letter. Heartbroken, Sir Christopher attends the funeral; there he meets the someone else, previously joined only in the dark. He loses his heart again. They marry. A faint memory stirs—a familiar perfume. The lady changes it, and happiness is saved.

Such are the slightnesses of these fancies. Others concern chance encounters, adult intrigues espied by children, the perils and paradoxes of love undeclared, misunderstood, and so thwarted, or the pitfalls of not recognizing one's age. Only one of them, "Le petit ours", seemed to me to be sentimental, rather as the "Rosebud" revelation flaws *Citizen Kane*. And one long story, centring on a ghost (or apparent ghost), struck me as overwrought, failing to communicate the emotion that its author believed was there. Otherwise, adroitness is all.

That, of course, is not everything. Some may feel that the props are battered, the scenery faded, the denouements stale. The writing belies them. Crisp, sensitive, witty, and true to a life that still survives in the 1970s, it pushes back to frontiers of experiment: but it reveals how much can still be achieved by a master of the old-fashioned manner, a plot and a fiction as old and as fresh as storytelling itself.

Gentle folk

By Jane Miller

JONATHAN SMITH:
Wilfred and Ellen
178pp. Hutchinson. £3.75.

Fiction set in a past known through photographs rather than paintings sometimes takes on the peculiarly deadening truthfulness of photography. Susan Hill's *Strange Meeting*, for instance, has a haunting quality, as if the First World War, with its richness of detail and atmosphere reduced by the sense of lives being hardly more than an album of disconcertingly posed snaps and portraits. Jonathan Smith's *Wilfred and Ellen* is in perpetual conspiracy with the camera. Sadly, such effects are not confined to fashion. Nostalgia and pity have immobilized his characters and made of them figures at which one peers in vain for signs of individuality.

Wilfred and Ellen were real people, and though Mr Smith did not know them he has deduced his novel to their daughters. This, and his feeling for the poignancy of all young life damaged by the First World War, has encouraged him to centre his story on a couple who are handsome, decent, brave and unexceptional to a debilitating degree. They meet at a Cambridge May Ball the week before Wilfred goes down to continue with medicine at the London Hospital. Their wooing is decorous and made only slightly difficult by his long hours and family opposition. Both come from rich Kensington families, united by their disapproval of the marriage their children propose and divided by differences of status and money the author is too delicate to explain. Eventually they marry secretly in order to consummate their passion more alleged, than expressed.

When war is declared Wilfred predictably offers himself at once. The couple write touchingly dull letters to each other, and when Wilfred is wounded in the head Ellen gets permission to go to France and bring him home. The story ends with his partial recovery in his own hospital, and it is worth saying that the author is at his best when dealing with the medical profession and practice of the period. What will survive and what the couple survive and their families are recalled. The novel comes wrapped in Margaret Drabble's praise, surprisingly for the author has been too moved by the story to this way to move us, and the idea for too long to be accepted on trust. Neither Wilfred's "deep vein of idealism" nor Ellen's integrity seems more than an assertion about someone trapped in the past with no voice of his own.

A guy and a doll

By David Lodge

TOM SHARPE:
Wilt
211pp. Secker and Warburg. £3.50.

With a name like Henry Wilt, Tom Sharpe's hero has the odds of life stacked heavily against him, of course. It comes as no surprise to find that he is a sexual sluggard and a professional failure: no match for his energetic and ambitious wife Eva and still a Lecturer Grade 2 after ten years of forcing Liberal Studies (mainly in the form of *Love of the Flies*) down the unwilling throats of apprentice mechanics, printers and butchers (a dreaded class known as "Meat On") at the local Tech. For his part, Henry despises Eva's restless efforts to improve herself by a promiscuous indulgence in such cultural pursuits as yoga, pottery and flower arranging.

Indeed, as humiliation and frustration pile up, Henry increasingly takes refuge in obsessive fantasies of doing away with his wife, and the urge becomes almost irresistible when she is adopted by a pair of swinging Californian visitors to the local university, and tries to drag him with her into their polymorphously perverse lifestyle.

At an awful party given by the awful Americans Henry declines an offer from his hostess to give him a blow-job. "Don't you touch me," he shouted, his mind alive with images of burning paint." He knocks himself out shortly afterwards, and in place she takes advantage of him by inserting his penis into the appropriate orifice of a life-size plastic doll with which her husband occasionally solaces himself, over-inflating it to such a degree that when Wilt comes round he is unable to, as it were, withdraw. I could suspend my disbelief in the incident, for a good deal of importance attaches to it.

When Eva discovers her husband in *flagrant delicto* with the doll she is filled with disgust and rushes off impulsively with the American. In a borrowed cabin cruiser, while Henry goes home to procure murdering her when she returns. He dresses the doll up in Eva's clothes and wig and drunkenly releases a plan to bury her corpse in the foundations of a new building at the Tech. As it turns out, this lifelike replica of Eva is spotted by a workman just as it is buried under twenty tons of fast-setting concrete and since Eva herself is missing (the Americans' cabin cruiser is stranded in some remote backwater of the Broadland) Henry becomes the prime suspect of a sensational crime.

From this point onwards the plot unfolds with a good deal of prod fun, mostly at the expense of the police investigating the crime. The trouble is that in winding up the mechanism of the comedy Mr Sharpe has already strained our credulity beyond repair, not only by implausibility but, more damagingly, by inconsistency. The character of Eva, for instance, is full of contradictions, extreme innocence combined with determined trendiness, and it is not even clear whether she is physically attractive or repulsive. She certainly never seems awful enough to explain Henry's homicidal impulses, and in any case his discontent is far more easily alleviated by simply walking out on her. In the fictional world of P. G. Wodehouse, with whom Mr Sharpe has frequently been compared, such questions do not arise, because a writer's conventional and consistent code of motivation is taken for granted. Mr Sharpe oscillates uneasily between comic stereotypes (hen-pecked husbands would like to murder their wives and so on) and something more seriously felt (Wilt as a man who having reached rock-bottom in his unlucky life finds himself existentially free and recovers his self-respect). The two modes cancel each other out.

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Catch-22 in the days of Munich

By A. J. P. Taylor

RITCHIE OVENDALE:

"Appeasement" and the English Speaking World
Britain, the United States, the Dominions, and the Policy of "Appeasement", 1937-1939
353pp. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, £5.

Before the First World War the British Government took Dominions aid and American sympathy for granted. Before the second both were more essential and there was no certainty that they would be forthcoming. In recent years this anxiety has been treated as the key to Chamberlain's policy. Keith Robbins wrote of Munich, "It was taking on the risk to make war without the certainty of dominion support". Chamberlain rarely put it so clearly. It seems rather that doubts concerning the Dominions were raised in aid of a policy already determined. The documents also present difficulties. At the Dominion Office, "all significant papers on foreign affairs have been destroyed". At the Foreign Office, "the dominions intelligence files for 1938 have been destroyed". Enough remains to provide material for a book of considerable value.

The story starts with the Imperial Conference of 1937. At that time the Dominions except New Zealand were unwilling to be involved in a European war. Smuts wrote: "Our South African representatives... will be extremely averse to South Africa or the British Commonwealth being involved in any European conflict." Mackenzie King told the British ambassador in Washington: "Canada was resolved to maintain neutrality in any war at any price and on no account would it be dragged into hostilities." Chamberlain has already embarked on appeasement and, as Ritchie Ovendale writes: "The Imperial conference convinced Chamberlain that his policy... was the right one, but by that time it caused him to embark on it, it is probably an exaggeration."

At the Brussels conference in the autumn of 1937 the British allowed others to shoulder the responsibility for inaction. Roosevelt gave this advice to the British Government:

1. It should not speak or think or act as though it were possible for me to be in any way an exponent of British Foreign Office policy.
2. It should never forget I cannot march ahead of our very difficult and restive American public opinion; and
3. It must not try to push me in any way to the front or to thrust leadership upon me.

Jebb of the Foreign Office admitted: "In my view sanctions [against Japan] would almost certainly mean war and the United States is not prepared to fight, even with the British Empire as an ally. Therefore there will be in fact no sanctions." And a fortnight later: "Generally speaking we seem to have put ourselves in the excellent tactical position of allowing the Dominions to torpedo a 'sanctions' policy in advance before definitely committing ourselves one way or the other." Once more the British Government was being pushed in the direction it wanted to go.

Dr Ovendale argues that the rift between Chamberlain and Eden that led to the latter's resignation was a "clearcut" dispute over policy. Eden, wishing to stake everything on close relations with the United States, and Chamberlain determined to approach the two Axis dictators directly, really the dispute was more blurred. Chamberlain held that it was less to run after American aid. Eden on his side had no fundamental opposition to appeasement and objected only to the timing for it. Roosevelt's plan in any case did not amount to much. "Certain minor powers would draw up a agenda for a conference to which it would be invited." Would the minor powers have accepted this responsibility as mediators? If they had, would the major powers have allowed an agenda to be dictated to them? Both seem unlikely. Roosevelt wanted to act as peace-maker without committing himself

in any way. No doubt this was all that American opinion would allow him to do.

The Czech crisis was a showpiece for support of appeasement by the Dominions. Smuts again expressed their general opinion:

As regards the Dominions they will fight for Great Britain if attacked, they will not fight in the battles of Central or South Eastern Europe. I have even doubts whether they will fight again for France and Belgium.

However, as the crisis moved from talk to possible action, the Dominions began to abandon their reserves. On September 25 the High Commissioners were still saying that "the German proposals can't be allowed to be a *caveau*". But on September 26 they agreed that it came to war "the Dominions would, however reluctantly, be in sooner or later, on the side of the United Kingdom". On September 26 also the British Government reminded the Dominions that "with the constitutional position of the king no dominion could remain neutral in international law". Clearly the British Government assumed that when Father says "turn" we all follow. This was surely a misreading of the Statute of Westminster but no Dominion government disputed it.

Roosevelt's contribution to the Czech crisis is memorable. He hoped that if the Western powers went to war they would rely solely on blockade:

Revisionism is a serious business

By Stephen Koss

GILLIAN PEELE and CITRIS COOK (Editors):
The Politics of Reappraisal
1918-1939
265pp. Macmillan, £10.

ROBERT J. SCALLY:
The Origins of the Lloyd George Coalition
The Politics of Social Imperialism, 1900-1918
416pp. Princeton University Press, £11.40.

As virtually every undergraduate essay (and not a few published works) will testify, any historical age qualifies as one of transition, adjustment or, best of all, re-appraisal. But, as Max Beloff deftly argues in his introduction to *The Politics of Reappraisal 1918-1939*, an admirable collection have jointly edited the decades that separated the two world wars played "some quite specific features" that especially entitle them to one or all of these hackneyed designations.

His assertion is convincingly borne out by the contents of this book. In terms of political structure, constitutional development, administrative practice, and social and economic relationships, British attitudes and institutions were first effectively challenged, then essentially modified during the inter-war period. By temperament as much as by scholarly experience, Professor Beloff is equipped to play "Grand Old Man" to his nine fellow contributors, the next oldest of whom is a quarter-century his junior and none of whom can match his claim to "first-hand memory" of the subjects about which they write. Accepting their relative youth, flexibility, he manages to put the matter in proper historiographical perspective.

What now seems significant is something of which contemporaries were perhaps less fully aware: the impact upon Britain of the First World War, not only of the movement towards democracy in the broad sense to which the war for a number of reasons gave an added impetus.

Accordingly, each author has attempted to ascertain the respect consequent impact, to measure the broad highways, to avoid the side roads, and to measure the backroads, which are not to be

Blockade must be based on loftiest humanitarian grounds and on the desire to wage hostilities with minimum of suffering and the least possible loss of life and property, and yet bring the enemy to his knees.

Roosevelt was anxious that others should act though he would do nothing himself. In March 1939, he told the British ambassador:

If the British wanted cooperation what they ought to make America believe was that they had enough backbone to retain their position by their own efforts and lick the other going on their own as they had done before. "What the British need is a good stiff grog."

This was a Catch-22 situation. The British must show they merited American support by taking independent action. If they took independent action, this would prove that they did not need American support. British relations with the Dominions were another version of the same catch. If appeasement was successful, the Dominions would not be needed. If it failed, the Dominions would be needed but they would be reluctant to give it.

The British knew that they were cheating the two Pacific Dominions when they talked of sending a fleet to the Far East. Chamberlain suggested that the Dominions should be warned that it might not be possible to send an adequate force. Churchill replied:

misplaced for *cul-de-sac*. Furthermore, as Professor Beloff is quick to point out, they have devoted relatively little attention to the political "right" to the "left". This, he assures us, does not reflect an ideological predisposition so much as an attempt to redress a balance which has been tilted by disproportionate interest in the forces of "progress".

The topics for reappraisal range widely, but at the same time overlap sufficiently to impart a unity which is usually lacking in such enterprises. John Campbell's commentary on the intellectual gymnastics of the Liberal Summer when considered against the poignant wheedling portrait of Lord Rothermere, steeped in fascist doctrines and champagne (presumably from Hungarian vineyards), Paul Addison implicitly links the two previous essays with Colin Seymour-Ure's systematic analysis of the strident "Left" political propaganda of the Lloyd George premiership. And Professor Scally has discerned parallels in the "corporate influence" of the civil service, as exerted during the inter-war years.

Differing in form, perspectives, and research techniques, these essays nevertheless strikingly complement one another. As Professor Scally admits, they do not provide "a substitute for a general history of the period", a task which he has not assumed; but they illuminate general history areas which have been largely ignored. Incidental points which the authors raise dispute. For example, Dr. Beloff has amassed evidence that the outbreak of war abruptly ended political passions and the "era of patriotic opposition which lasted until the reconstruction of the League of Nations in 1919, when other factors were present. The results so much speculative as preparation. To prove such a case would require infinite diligence and a clear exposition, and a word of sources. In spite of this, Scally's disclaimers for "the day of the time", his turgid prose, and his abstracted, "scenic" word which he should have banished from his vocabulary, his book is riddled with errors. It does not inspire confidence. A confusion between the Chesterton brothers, and a self-betrayal of the Murray note neither of whom should be filed as "Liberal". Alfred Lytton's name is persistently misspelled. We hear tell of Sir Alfred Milner and Lord John Balfour, and over in Berlin, of Herr von Wucher. A paragraph is inserted posthumously on Sir W. H. Murray who is thereafter taken for his son.

Although his bibliography is cognate, several books are few articles that have appeared in recent years, these are not pertinent to his interpretation. It is to be noted that, after counting H. C. G. Matthew's *The Liberal Imperialists*, he could find no other Liberalism, inadmissibly might have convinced him that social reform was not the policy of the so-called imperialist party and that Free Trade was not in 1903! "that doing come" Stephen Roskill's biography of Hankey might have tempered his enthusiasm for the War Committee which Lloyd George presided over in December 1915. Grant John Barber's essay in the Peck Cook anthology was not yet available to him; but he might have looked at the Hawkins papers, Sheffield, which Stubbs has not seen. Stubbs's article, "Lord Milner and Patriotic Labour, 1914-1918", in the *English Historical Review*.

By navigating around sources by failing to take account of personalities and events that might refute his thesis, Professor Scally's argument that the Liberalism of the Lloyd George era was not to be despised. His countenance beams from the pages of *The Politics of Reappraisal*, the contributors within know to evaluate his testimony as well as his activities. They also know, Professor Scally apparently does not, that revisionism is a serious business.

It appeared quite out of the question to put forward a satisfactory argument to the Dominions for weakening the assurance which we had given them. In fact, in his opinion, it would be dangerous to do so and would have an extremely bad effect on Dominion opinion. Even if we only sent a force of seven or eight capital ships to the Far East, we could trust to our superior efficiency to hold the position and to contain the Japanese fleet.

Stanhope went further: "If one or two capital ships were sent to Singapore they would be a deterrent to Japan, especially if the United States fleet moved to Honolulu". No plans were made for moving any ships to the Far East. The Dominions concerned were not warned.

Lord Halifax claimed later that the Dominions were disillusioned by Hitler's occupation of Prague. This is not confirmed by the records. Smuts wrote on April 6, 1939: "Chamberlain's Polish guarantee has simply made us gasp from the Commonwealth point of view. I cannot see the Dominions following Great Britain in the sort of Imperial policy the dangers of which to the Commonwealth are obvious. We still remember Lloyd George's Chanak escapade. Dr. Ovendale sums up firmly: 'The Commonwealth was not united at Prague, nor was support from the United States any more likely than it had been during the Munich crisis'. When war was

actually on the horizon, the only suggestion was that 'the no declaration of war as to the neutrality acts'. The King was 'horror-struck' at the talk of bringing Churchill and Eden into the cabinet and Chamberlain that Hitler's 'significance'.

Dr Ovendale writes at the *Speaking World*:

It seems strange that Chamberlain, particularly in the views frequently expressed in the dangers of becoming lost in British quarrels in the There was no strategic aim for Canada's fighting; how had guaranteed Canada's loyalty in Kingston speech September 1938.

The Dominions continued to be in the assessment until the last and, as we now know, even by it: they urged negotiations. Hitler in October 1939 and the summer of 1940. But, as Ovendale writes: "When it came to the choice of continuing to be threatened by Hitler, they chose for Britain."

British policy was not determined by either the Dominions or the United States. A predominant factor was purely British considerations though it was desirable to keep the Dominions and the United States in a temper. The British Government simply assumed, like a theatre company, that it would be all right on the night and the Dominions it was.

tors were present. The results so much speculative as preparation. To prove such a case would require infinite diligence and a clear exposition, and a word of sources. In spite of this, Scally's disclaimers for "the day of the time", his turgid prose, and his abstracted, "scenic" word which he should have banished from his vocabulary, his book is riddled with errors. It does not inspire confidence. A confusion between the Chesterton brothers, and a self-betrayal of the Murray note neither of whom should be filed as "Liberal". Alfred Lytton's name is persistently misspelled. We hear tell of Sir Alfred Milner and Lord John Balfour, and over in Berlin, of Herr von Wucher. A paragraph is inserted posthumously on Sir W. H. Murray who is thereafter taken for his son.

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The author builds on the foundations laid by Bernard Semmel and G. R. Searle, which are too fragile to support his weighty construct. The tabernacle of Social Imperialism proves, upon closer inspection, though some of the same participants were involved and addressed comparable appeals to one another, the abortive attempt at coalition in rehearsal for 1916, when other factors

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century opposed social change, only to have it thrust upon them. 'This study shows the profession as essentially elitist in nature, with its emphasis on serving business interests and its attempts to exclude minority groups such as Jews and blacks. Professor Auerbach traces developments up to the 'law and order' reaction against the changes of the 1960s, and its culmination in the Watergate scandal which left public faith in the law shattered.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION Education Secretary

Applications are invited for the post of Education Secretary.

The Education Secretary, who will be a Chartered Librarian, will be responsible for matters relating to the professional education of members and for the implementation of educational policy decisions of the Association. The Education Secretary will have a significant role in advisory work on educational and careers matters for members and potential members. The Education Department, for which the Education Secretary will be responsible, administers the external examinations of the Association, the examination for Teacher-Librarians, the Mature Registration Scheme and theses submitted for Fellowship of the Library Association.

The salary will be on a scale related to Civil Service Scales which is currently in the range of £3,885 to £5,745 p.a.

Further details can be obtained from

THE SECRETARY,
THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
7 RIDGEMOUNT STREET,
LONDON WC1E 7AE.



BRITISH TOURIST AUTHORITY
(239 Old Marylebone Road NW1)

TOURIST INFORMATION LIBRARY

DEPUTY LIBRARIAN

(Commencing salary around £2,900/£3,000 p.a.)

BTA's Tourist Information Library is a unique book and file collection of material relating to tourism in Britain and it is used by many outside writers and researchers as well as by BTA's own staff.

We now seek a mature DEPUTY LIBRARIAN who will be involved with the wide range of duties relating to this special library. A background of library work, practical common sense, and interest in tourism plus a good general knowledge of Great Britain are the main requirements. (Library qualifications are not essential.)

Previous applicants will automatically be reconsidered. BTA offers 203 days' holiday; LVS; pension scheme and social activities.

Applications giving age and brief background details to Personnel Officer (Home Staff), BTA, 84 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1NE.



HERTFORDSHIRE LIBRARY SERVICE

READY TO MOVE OUT?

Applications are invited for the post of MOBILE LIBRARIAN based at HARENDEN, the specially designed, air conditioned, heated mobile library carrying about 2,000 books and providing a direct lending service to the rural and outlying urban areas of Mid. Hertfordshire.

Minimum qualification for this post is Part I of the Library Association Examination. Salary within Grade A.P. 11/11 plus Local Weighting.

For details contact Alan White, the Personnel Officer of Hertfordshire Library Service, Library Headquarters, County Hall, Hatfield SG13 8JH, Hertfordshire. Tel: 0462 4111. Applications within 14 days of publication.

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY LIBRARY

DIVISIONAL LIBRARIAN

SOUTH WEST

PD 1 (24): £4,842-£5,406

Applications are invited from Chartered Librarians for this important post in the County Library Department, based on Stratford-upon-Avon.

Further details from the County Librarian, The Burs, Warwick CV34 4SS. Applications with the names and addresses of two referees to the above address by 22nd March, 1976.

District Librarian

(Balham)

£5,373 - £5,958

Due to the impending retirement of the existing post holder (Mr A. Goring, F.L.A.), we are seeking an enthusiastic qualified librarian to take charge of the Balham District Library, which incorporates a technical section, the Borough's centralised music administration and three branch libraries.

The successful candidate should preferably be a Fellow of the Library Association or a Graduate Chartered Librarian and a proven interest in music would be an advantage. The District Librarian will deal with all aspects of management within the district including staffing (40 officers and 9 manual); equipment and its security; maintenance of the building; budgetary control and assistance with the longer term planning of the Council's library services as a member of the Borough Librarian's management team. Other duties include promoting good public relations, responsibility for book selection and book stock of all libraries within the district and assisting in the implementation of computerisation and the Pleassey Park Issue System. Application form and full details from Borough Librarian, Department of Recreation, West Hill District Library, London SW18. Tel. 01-874 1143. Closes 15th March, 1976.

LONDON BOROUGH OF

Wandsworth

Leicestershire

WE NEED TWO CHARTERED LIBRARIANS

Interested in WORK WITH CHILDREN to be Lead Children's Specialist in the SOUTH AREA AND SOUTH-EAST AREA Professional Teams. An exciting opportunity for job satisfaction and personal development through leading a Team of Librarians in this important aspect of community service.

Salary AP3 (£2,922-£3,282) or AP4 (£3,366-£3,702)

Write, telephone or telex for information sheet and application form to Geoffrey Smith, F.L.A., County Librarian, Lee Circle, Leicester LE1 3RW. Telephone Leicester 22012. Telex 34307. Closing date March 17th.

Libraries and Information Service



Application forms for the undermentioned posts are available from THE CENTRAL PERSONNEL UNIT, Y.M.C.A. BUILDING, THE KINGWAY, SWANSEA. Telephone: Swansea 84000.

PLEASE QUOTE APPROPRIATE REFERENCE NUMBER. Closing date for the return of completed application forms is FRIDAY, 19th March, 1976 (unless otherwise stated).

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

REF: SV/037/034

School Library Services,
County Library Headquarters, Swansea.

Applicants must be Chartered Librarians.

Salary: £2,922-£3,282 per annum

County Council County Library

Qualified Librarians are invited to apply for the post of

Assistant Librarian Branch and Mobiles Team

North Bedfordshire District Libraries

Interest in work with young people would be an advantage.

Salary for Chartered Librarians: Librarian's Career Grade A.P. 8-6 (£2,922-£4,095) with progression beyond £3,282 and £3,702 dependent upon responsibility and experience.

Further details and application forms from the Personnel Officer, County Hall, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK42 9JH. Closing date 15th March, 1976.

KENT County Council Education Committee

LIBRARIAN MEDWAY AND MAIDSTONE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

£4,239-£4,545

We require an experienced Librarian to manage four centres of the college library, two based at Medway Towns and two based in Maidstone. The college is the largest technical college in Kent and the appointee will serve on the College Academic Board.

A favourable disturbance allowance is payable on approved cases.

Further information and application form from the County Librarian, County Library, Springfield, Maidstone, or telephone 54371, ext. 377. Closing date 20th March. Please quote Ref. TLS.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

HET NEDERLANDSE MINISTERIE VAN BUITENLANDSE ZAKEN

vraagt t.b.v. de Afdeling Vertalingen een

ENGELSTALIGE VERTALER

(mnl./vrl.)

Taak: het vertalen in het Engels van hoofdzakelijk Nederlandse teksten over een grote verscheidenheid van onderwerpen.

Vereist: universitaire opleiding, een goed gevoel voor alle nuanceringen (zowel in de moedertaal als in het Nederlands), grondige kennis van Nederland, zijn volk, geschiedenis en maatschappelijke structuur; passieve kennis van Frans of Duits is noodzakelijk.

Standplaats: 's-Gravenhage.

Salarië, afhankelijk van leeftijd en ervaring, max. Hfl.4.307,- per maand.

Bovengenoemd salariedebiet dient te worden vermeerderd met een toeslag van 4,8% (voor meerderjarige gezinsleden).

Schriftelijke sollicitaties onder vermelding van vac. nr. 63927/2587 (in linker-bovenhoek van brief en enveloppe), zenden aan de Rijkse Psychologische Dienst, Prins Mauritsaan 1, 's-Gravenhage.

Het salaria is exclusief 7,8% vagante-uitkering.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF NORTH TYNESIDE LIBRARIES AND ARTS DEPARTMENT

Local Studies Librarian

AP4/5 (£3,366-£4,095)

The successful candidate will be responsible for all local studies material (except archives) relating to North Tyneside and its surrounding area and will work in close cooperation with an archivist on the staff of the County Archivist of Tyne and Wear Metropolitan County.

The local studies service has been developed considerably during the last two years and this post offers a most challenging and rewarding opportunity to librarians interested in this specialism, the person appointed will be responsible for instituting a publications programme, building up a close liaison with schools and local history societies, and training staff in the relevant research methods.

Applicants must be chartered librarians and should have experience in the field of local history.

Further information may be obtained from the Chief Librarian, Central Library, Northumberland Square, North Shields, Tyne and Wear (N/S 82811).

Application forms available from:
Chief Personnel Officer, 7 Northumberland Square, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE30 1QQ, and should be returned two weeks after the appearance of this advertisement.

County of Cleveland Leisure and Amenities Department

CLEVELAND COUNTY LIBRARIES

Branch Librarian

£2,922-£3,282

Applications are invited from qualified librarians for a post as Branch Librarian in the Harrogate District of the County Library. Those applying should be in possession of the Part II Examination or the degree equivalent.

In approved cases, financial assistance with household removal expenses will be available. Temporary housing accommodation for married couples may be available in approved cases, within the County area.

Forms of application may be obtained from the County Librarian, Central Library, Victoria Square, Middlesbrough, to whom they should be returned by March 15, 1976.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

(General Services) Bury St. Edmunds Library

Post N45

Librarian scale £2,127-£3,282

A qualified Librarian is required to take responsibility for the adult readers advisory service in the Bury St. Edmunds Library.

Application form, job description and further details available from Hilary Hammond, Area Librarian, Library Administration Unit, 6 Honey Hill, Bury St. Edmunds. Closing date March 22, 1976.

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CITY OF LONDON POLYTECHNIC

Chief Librarian

Administrative grade D

£8,656 - £7,282

including London

Weighting.

Applications are invited from experienced, qualified librarians for this post. Details of which may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, City of London Polytechnic, 117-118 Houndsditch, London, EC3A 7BU.

The closing date will be

29 March 1976

HERFORD AND WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

£2,922-£3,282

Applications are invited from qualified librarians for the post of Assistant Librarian. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to assist in the management of the library.

For the post of Assistant Librarian, candidates should have a good knowledge of at least one foreign language and library experience.

The post is suitable for graduate librarians who have recently qualified. Details and application form may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, City of London Polytechnic, 117-118 Houndsditch, London, EC3A 7BU.

The closing date will be

29 March 1976

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STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY LIBRARY

BRIDGEMAN

LIBRARIAN

£2,922-£3,282

Applications are invited from qualified librarians for the post of Librarian. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the library and will be expected to assist in the management of the library.

For the post of Librarian, candidates should have a good knowledge of at least one foreign language and library experience.

The post is suitable for graduate librarians who have recently qualified. Details and application form may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, City of London Polytechnic, 117-118 Houndsditch, London, EC3A 7BU.

The closing date will be

29 March 1976

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